Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-2. Canceled.

3. (Currently Amended) The multilayer ceramic capacitor as set forth in claim ~~1~~ 10, wherein a main component of said internal electrode layers is Ni or Cu.

4. Canceled.

5. (Previously Presented) The multilayer ceramic capacitor as set forth in claim 3, wherein Fe is segregated in at least one of said internal electrode layers.

6-9. Canceled.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The multilayer ceramic capacitor as set forth in claim 1,~~A multilayer ceramic capacitor comprising:

internal electrode layers; and

dielectric layers, the dielectric layers comprising particles, wherein an average particle diameter (R), in a direction parallel with said internal electrode layers, is larger than a thickness (d) of said dielectric layer, wherein a ratio (R/d) between said average particle diameter (R) and the thickness (d) of said dielectric layer satisfies $1<R/d<3$, wherein the thickness (d) of said dielectric layer is less than 3 μm, and wherein the internal electrode layers are separated by a distance of no more than the size of at least one particle of said particles, wherein at least one of said dielectric layers comprises at least said dielectric particles and a grain boundary phase, and an area ratio of said grain boundary phase in a section of said dielectric layer is 2% or less.

11. Canceled.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The multilayer ceramic capacitor as set for thin in claim 1,~~ A multilayer ceramic capacitor comprising:

internal electrode layers; and

dielectric layers, the dielectric layers comprising particles, wherein an average particle diameter (R), in a direction parallel with said internal electrode layers, is larger than a thickness (d) of said dielectric layer, wherein a ratio (R/d) between said average particle diameter (R) and the thickness (d) of said dielectric layer satisfies $1<R/d<3$, wherein the thickness (d) of said dielectric layer is less than 3 μm, and wherein the internal electrode layers are separated by a distance of no more than the size of at least one particle of said particles, wherein said dielectric particles have a core-shell structure.

13. Canceled.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The multilayer ceramic capacitor as set forth in claim 1,~~ A multilayer ceramic capacitor comprising:

internal electrode layers; and

dielectric layers, the dielectric layers comprising particles, wherein an average particle diameter (R), in a direction parallel with said internal electrode layers, is larger than a thickness (d) of said dielectric layer, wherein a ratio (R/d) between said average particle diameter (R) and the thickness (d) of said dielectric layer satisfies $1<R/d<3$, wherein the thickness (d) of said dielectric layer is less than 3 μm, and wherein the internal electrode layers are separated by a distance of no more than the size of at least one particle of said particles, wherein at least one of said dielectric layers is comprised of dielectric particles, a grain boundary and grain boundary phase, a segregation phase exists in said grain boundary phase, and said segregation phase contains at least two kinds of elements selected from the group consisting of Mn, Y, Si, Ca, V and W.

15-20. Canceled.

21. (New) The multilayer ceramic capacitor as set forth in claim 12, wherein a main component of said internal electrode layers is Ni or Cu.

22. (New) The multilayer ceramic capacitor as set forth in claim 21, wherein Fe is segregated in at least one of said internal electrode layers.

23. (New) The multilayer ceramic capacitor as set forth in claim 14, wherein a main component of said internal electrode layers is Ni or Cu.

24. (New) The multilayer ceramic capacitor as set forth in claim 23, wherein Fe is segregated in at least one of said internal electrode layers.